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LB 637, 972

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: My fear is that they won't be together. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Kristensen and Senator Brown. (Visitors introduced.) Further debate on the Bourne amendment to the committee amendments to LB 972? Senator Bourne, followed by Senators Brashear, Baker, Chambers, Brown and Jones. Senator Bourne.

SENATOR BOURNE: Thank you, Mr. President, members. I guess every thing that Senator Kristensen said and Senator Brown said I agree with, but, you know...but I don't see how this is going to be a problem. I think if you...if you look at how it's going to be structured anyway, yeah, they might be...these entities might be in close proximity to each other, but they never...you know it's never been suggested that they be part of the...part of one. I'll tell you, here's where I came about this whole thing. If you look at the statutes that we passed last year in the form of LB 637 and now, of course, it's incorporated in the statutes, and its 43-3342, it talks about the State Disbursement Unit, and that is what HHS refers to as the SDU. And it says, there is hereby created a State Disbursement Unit pursuant to, and it cites the federal statute, for the statewide collection and disbursement of support and order payments. And then it says, the Statewide Disbursement Unit shall be administered and operated directly by a public or private entity or state officer designated by Title IV-D. Well, what we did this year is we designated the Treasurer as the person that's going to handle the SDU. We never suggested that the Treasurer...or the designee was going to be the Treasurer as it related to the Title IV-D call center. What we said was that the Treasurer was going to be the designee for the SDU. The SDU is responsible for collecting and disbursing the child support payments. The payments would come in from the employer and they would go out from the SDU to the kids or the moms who are...you know, the custodial parent. If you look at the committee amendment to the bill that we introduced this year, it says the Title IV-D Division, that's Health and Human Services, shall establish a Customer Service Unit. These are clearly two separate entities. We have the SDU, which we this year designated the Treasurer as being responsible for, and that collects and disburses the